



More Facts About Downtown Crime

August 15, 2013

Reported crime can decrease citywide or even in large areas of the city, such as entire police precincts, while it is going up in smaller geographic areas, such as a street corner or specific police patrol beat. This is precisely what is happening in our downtown, especially around Westlake Park, a prime retail and tourist destination situated along the heavily traveled Pike-Pine corridor between the waterfront, Pike Place Market and the Washington State Convention Center.

The Police Department's crime statistics through July of this year show that reported violent crime is relatively unchanged citywide (down 0.4%) through July, compared to the same period in 2012. It's down 6.5% since 2009. This violent crime statistic includes homicide, rape, robbery, and assault (including both aggravated assault and simple or misdemeanor assault).

These citywide statistics are what the Mayor and police officials use when they assert that violent crime is down in Seattle. However, a closer examination reveals a different story for parts of our downtown neighborhoods.

In the West Police Precinct, which includes all of downtown and also South Lake Union, Uptown, Queen Anne and Magnolia, violent crime is up 1.7% this year through July, compared to the same period in 2012, and up 2.8% compared to 2009.

However, in the five police patrol beats (the West Precinct has a total of [12 patrol beats](#)) that comprise the area from Denny Way to Yesler Way and from Elliott Bay to Interstate 5, plus part of the First Hill hospital district (M1, M2, M3, D3 and K1), violent crime has increased 1.5% through July, compared to the same period last year, and is up 6.5% compared to 2009.

But even this analysis is incomplete because it does not include the dozens of other crimes (e.g., drug and alcohol violations, car prowls, property damage, prostitution, and other nuisance offenses) that are not reported in sufficient detail by the Police Department to measure their trend lines.

What we now know from the Police Department's crime statistics is that citywide violent crime rates are down, but this fact masks what is happening in specific places, such as in our downtown neighborhoods where reported violent crime is at the highest level it has been since 2009.

	Part I Crimes Including Simple Assault (January to July in each year)			Percent Change 2013 Compared to 2009	Percent Change 2013 Compared to 2012
	2013	2012	2009		
Citywide					
Total Offenses	18373	19734	20970	-12.4%	-6.9%
Citywide Violent Crime	4352	4369	4656	-6.5%	-0.4%
Total West Precinct					
Total Offenses	5158	5656	6157	-16.2%	-8.8%
W. Precinct Violent Crime	1266	1245	1232	2.8%	1.7%
Downtown Only					
Total Offenses	2475	2766	3000	-17.5%	-10.5%
Downtown Violent Crime	659	649	619	6.5%	1.5%

For this analysis Part I crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, burglary, theft and vehicle theft through July of each year. Violent Crime excludes burglary, theft and vehicle theft (the major property crimes).

Downtown Only includes patrol beats M1, M2, M3, D3 and K1, an area from Denny Way south to Yesler Way and from Elliott Bay to Interstate 5, plus portions of the hospital district on First Hill. Beat M2 is immediately adjacent to Westlake Park and Beat K1 includes Westlake Park.

